

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 170597  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY S/S-O:TMARTIN  
APPROVED BY S/S-O:TMARTIN  
-----023083 212025Z /61  
O 211956Z JUL 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 170597

NODIS  
FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL RPT AMMAN 04095 ACTION SECSTATE 21 JUL 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 4095

NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 3 LINE 20 MISSING ON ORIG)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, JO, US, XF  
SUBJECT: BEGIN VISIT

REF: STATE 170055

1. KING RECEIVED ME SHORTLY AFTER NOON ON JULY 21 AND I PASSED ON  
TO HIM INFORMATION REFTEL PARAS 2 THROUGH 10.

2. AFTER WE HAD FINISHED AND BEFORE ANYTHING FURTHER COULD BE SAID,  
SECRET

SECRET

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HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD ONE POINT OF CONCERN. "THE US MORE AND MORE  
WAS ACTING LIKE A POSTMAN BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. WHAT HAS  
BECOME OF THE POSITIONS WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS TAKEN IN THE PAST  
ON THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PEACE SETTLEMENT." I TOLD HIM IN REPLY  
THAT I WAS GLAD HE HAD ASKED THE QUESTION BECAUSE  
I WAS ABOUT TO RAISE A POINT WITH HIM WHICH WAS DIRECTLY RELEVANT.

3. I THEN SAID, DRAWING ON PARA 11 REFTTEL, THAT IT WAS MY FIRM IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY WERE FOLLOWING A VERY CAREFUL STRATEGY IN DEVELOPING THE US POSITION WITH AN EYE TO US PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION. THIS HAD TO BE THEIR DECISION. I ADDED THAT I HAD GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE AND TO ASSURE HIM THAT WHILE WE WOULD NOT BE REPEATING OUR PAST POSITIONS IN THE DAYS AHEAD ON THE POINTS HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT, HE SHOULD REST ASSURED THAT OUR POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED AND THAT SECRETARY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO MAKE THAT CLEAR TO HIM WHEN HE CAME TO AMMAN. IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION THAT THERE WAS IN THIS ANALYSIS CONCERN THAT ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION WITH US PUBLIC WAS IN JEOPARDY, I ALSO SAID I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS WISE STRATEGY TO TREAT BEGIN WITH SAME DEGREE OF POLITENESS AND HOSPITALITY AS THE ARAB VISITORS WERE TREATED AND TO AVOID ALLOWING HIM TO BECOME A KIND OF MARTYR BY SEEKING A CONFRONTATION WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON, ESPECIALLY DURING HIS FIRST VISIT. KING ACCEPTED THIS POINT AND SAID NEVERTHELESS THAT HE HOPED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME US WOULD BE PREPARED TO REPEAT MAJOR POINTS IN ITS POSITION IN PUBLIC. HE IMPLIED, BUT DID NOT SAY, THAT ARABS MIGHT BE LOSING CONFIDENCE IN OUR STAYING POWER. IN ORDER TO REASSURE HIM THROUGHOUT THIS EXCHANGE, WHILE CLAIMING THAT THESE OBSERVATIONS WERE MY OWN ASSESSMENT, I TRIED TO GIVE HIM THE FEELING THAT THIS WAS BASED ON MORE THAN A "HOMECOOKED" ANALYSIS BY ME. I BELIEVE IT HELPED CONSIDERABLY TO ALLAY HIS CONCERNS.

4. IN ADDITION, I POINTED OUT TO HIM THE APPROACH WHICH SECRETARY  
SECRET

SECRET

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PLANNED TO TAKE ON HIS VISIT HERE OF SEEING HOW SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 COULD BE EXPANDED AND SUPPLEMENTED WITH A POSSIBLE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. THIS, I POINTED OUT TO KING, SHOULD ALSO BE REASSURING IN CONTEXT OF HIS CONCERNS THAT WE HAD BECOME MERELY A TRANSMISSION BELT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

5. TURNING TO YOUR TRIP, HE ASKED AGAIN ABOUT DATES. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD SEEN REPORT THAT WHITE HOUSE HAD INDICATED THAT TRIP WOULD BEGIN AROUND AUGUST FIRST AND THAT PM BEGIN HAD SAID THAT ISRAEL WAS EXPECTING YOU AUGUST 7 AND 8. THUS I CONCLUDED YOU WOULD BE VISITING THE ARAB COUNTRIES BETWEEN THOSE TWO DATES IF PRESS STATEMENTS WERE CORRECT. THIS SEEMED, I SAID, TO FIT WELL WITH THE DATES ON WHICH KING HAD INDICATED HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE. KING AGREED AND ASKED AGAIN IF I COULD LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE FINAL DATES. I SAID I WOULD BE IN TOUCH AS SOON AS I HEARD FROM YOU ON THIS POINT.

6. PRIOR TO SEEING KING, NEWSWEEK'S DE BORCHGRAVE JOINED ME IN THE WAITING ROOM. HE IS TO INTERVIEW KING TODAY. HE PROMISED TO PROVIDE ME TEXT OF HIS ASAD AND HUSSEIN INTERVIEW. HE SAID FORMER HAD JUST BEEN TELEXED TO DAMASCUS FOR CORRECTIONS.

WILL FORWARD TEXTS WHEN AND IF AVAILABLE. HE GOES TO ALEXANDRIA  
TOMORROW TO SEE SADAT.

7. FOR NEA: ONE SMALL POINT: PARA 5 REFTEL SPEAKS OF WIRELESS  
FILE COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT' AND WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN'S WEDNESDAY  
REMARKS ON BEGIN VISIT. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED WEDNESDAY COVERAGE  
AS OF THURSDAY MORNING AND IT WOULD HELP CONSIDERABLY IF,  
IN CASES THIS SORT, WE DID NOT HAVE TO RELY ON SOMEWHAT MERCURIAL  
WIRELESS FILE FOR KEY POLICY STATEMENTS CONNECTED WITH  
HIGH LEVEL INSTRUCTIONS.  
PICKERING

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, VISITS, CAT-B, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BEGIN VISIT  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PGOV, OVIP, JO, US, XF, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (HUSAYN), (BEGIN, MENACHEM)  
**To:** WHITE HOUSE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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